

Written Testimony- HB 5269

March 4, 2022

Members of the Committee:

I am Audrey Blondin, 174 Sherbrook Drive, Goshen, CT.

I am an Attorney in Torrington, CT and an elected member of the Goshen Board of Assessment Appeals. I am also a former member of the Litchfield Board of Selectman for 10 years and submit this as a private citizen in Goshen and not on behalf of any town board or commission.

I am in full and strong support of HB 5269-to permit public agencies to continue to conduct remote meetings under the Freedom of Information Act.

In Goshen we have a wonderful virtual/remote public access meeting system which was developed and put into place after CV-19 began and allows all residents to participate in any municipal meeting either in person or remotely.

Because of the ability to participate in these meetings remotely, including town meetings, there has been a great increase in public interest and participation in these meetings.

There have been no problems that I am aware of that would raise any level of concern for continuing to conduct all municipal meetings virtual/remote.

I urge the members of the committee to support this bill and also urge it's support and passage on behalf of the entire legislature to further promote and encourage the access and availability for all citizens to participate in our Democratic process here in Goshen and throughout the entire state of Connecticut.

Thank you very much.

Audrey Blondin

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